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## EDITORIALS.

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Professor Colaw was called away from home during the greater part of the past month, which fact will explain why his departments have been omitted in this issue.

We are happy to announce that a series of short elementary expository articles on Lie's Transformation Groups by Dr. E. O. Lovett, Baltimore, Maryland, will begin in the May number.

Professor Ollis Howard Kendall died last week at his home in Philadelphia. Professor Kendall was for a number of years Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania, at the same time that his father occupied the Chair of Mathematics.

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## BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

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*Algebra Reviews.* By Edward Rutledge Robbins, Master in Mathematics and Physics, The Lawrenceville School. Paper Back, 44 pages. Chicago: Ginn & Co.

The object of this little book is to present the essentials of Elementary Algebra in a form sufficiently complete as to be helpful to teachers and students at the time of review. The exercises are various and well selected. Teachers desiring such a book, will find this one well suited to their needs.

B. F. F.

*Thoughts on Religion.* By the late George John Romanes, M. A., LL. D., F. R. S., Canon of Westminster. Edited by Charles Gore, M. A., Canon of Westminster. Cloth, gilt top, 184 pages. Price, \$1.25. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co.

The value and importance of this work on the thought and conscience of the world cannot be overestimated. Coming as it does from one of the foremost agnostics and scientific thinkers of his time, it comes as a revelation to all classes of readers. In this book can be studied the evolution of a master mind from adhering to the doctrine of agnosticism to that of a full acceptance of the religion of Jesus Christ.

B. F. F.

*Darwin, and After Darwin.* An Exposition of the Darwinian Theory and a Discussion of the Post-Darwinian Questions. By George John Romanes, M. A., LL. D., F. R. S., Honorary Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. I. The Darwinian Theory. Second Edition. Cloth, gilt top, xiv and 460 pages. Price, \$2.00. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co.

The first volume contains ten chapters. Chapter I, Introductory; Chapter II, Classification; Chapter III, Morphology; Chapter IV, Embryology; Chapter V, Palæontology; Chapter VI, Geographical Distribution; Chapter VII, The Theory of Natural Selection;

Chapter VIII, Evidences of the Theory of Natural Selection; Chapter IX, Criticisms of the Theory of Natural Selection; Chapter X, The Theory of Sexual Selection, and concluding remarks. A more earnest and convincing argument in favor of the Theory of Evolution has not appeared since Darwin's time. Dr. Romanes' grasp of thought and power of cogent reasoning appears in this volume with telling effect. No one with a fair knowledge of the methods of scientific investigations can fail, after having read this book, to be convinced of the truth of the theory.

B. F. F.

*University Algebra.* By C. A. Van Velzer and Chas. S. Slichter, Professors in the University of Wisconsin. Pages 732. Madison, Wisconsin: Tracy, Gibbs and Company. 1893.

This book is now too well known to need any commendation from us. The authors are able and progressive teachers and in this text on algebra have introduced several new and valuable features. There are valuable chapters on mathematical induction, theory of limits, derivatives, complex numbers, the rational integral function, special equations, separation of roots, numerical equations, decomposition of rational fractions, graphic representation of equations, and determinants. The convergence and divergence of series is admirably treated. The accurate "historical notes" which are appended to the treatment of many of the topics will be appreciated. Every teacher of algebra has need of this work in his library whether he uses it as a class text-book or not.

J. M. C.

*Text-Book of Dynamics.* University Tutorial Series. By William Briggs, M. A., F. C. S., F. R. A. S., and G. H. Bryan, M. A. Cloth, 105 pages. Price, 50 cents. Cambridge, England: W. B. Clive. New York Depot: Hinds & Noble, 4 Cooper Institute.

We called attention in a previous number to the text-book on *Hydro-Statics* by the same authors. The treatise on *Dynamics* deserves the same commendation. Due prominence is given to the principles of the subject, and in the solution of problems results are deduced as far as possible from these principles themselves. Worked examples are freely inserted, and hints relating to special difficulties are given where needed. The examples are numerous and practical, the examination papers well selected, and the summary of results after each chapter of special value in reviews. The book may be open to criticism on some minor points, but there are few text-books on this subject which are so well suited to the needs of beginners.

J. M. C.

*Theoretical Mechanics: Fluids.* By J. Edward Taylor, M. A., B. Sc. 222 pages. Price, 80 cents. London and New York: Longmans, Green & Co.

Although intended to meet the Science and Art Department and London Matriculation requirements, this book may be used successfully in any school where a good text-book of its grade is required. One of the special features of the book is the large number of model examples which are fully worked out. The author believes they serve to fix the subject matter on the mind much more than simply reading over the text. This feature also makes it a valuable book to private students. The text is supplied with numerous graduated examples.

J. M. C.

*A Treatise on Elementary Hydrostatics.* By John Greaves, M. A. Price, \$1.10. 204 pages. Cambridge Press. New York: Macmillan & Co.

The author aims to treat the subject as fully as possible without using the Calculus, except in alternative proofs when by its aid results are more easily obtained or more concisely expressed. The mathematical element of the book is strong, and the book more advanced than the title and proposed method of treatment would indicate. It is well printed and furnished with sets of carefully selected exercises, while there are many excellent illustrative solutions. The topical index is helpful for ready reference.

J. M. C.

*Geometry of the Similar Figures and the Plane.* By C. W. C. Barlow, M. A., B. Sc., and G. H. Bryan, M. A. Price, 60 cents. 123 pages. University Tutorial Series. Cambridge: W. B. Clive. New York Depot: Hinds & Noble.

This little book contains the Sixth and Eleventh Books of Euclid, together with a summary of Book V., and many important additional propositions and applications relating to the Geometry of Similar Figures and the Plane. Euclid's order has been closely followed, while the additional matter is mostly in the form of illustrative examples. The properties of centers of similitude and homologous points are collected in a supplement at the end of Book VI. In addition to the illustrative examples, numerous exercises for solution follow the propositions on which they depend. The feature of giving many alternative proofs enables the teacher to make his own choice of methods. It is a very satisfactory book in a useful series. J. M. C.

*Modern Plane Geometry.* By G. Richardson, M. A., and A. S. Ramsay, M. A. Price, \$1.00. 202 pages. London and New York: Macmillan & Co.

This treatise includes chapters on properties of a triangle, quadrangle, and circle, harmonic and anharmonic ratio, geometrical maxima and minima, involution, reciprocation, inversion, and projection. It gives all that is best in the recent geometry on these subjects and is an excellent introduction to the more advanced books of Cremona and others. In arrangement the sequence of propositions recommended by the Association for the improvement of Geometrical Teaching has been followed. The triangle has been very fully and satisfactorily treated. The book will serve as an excellent sequel to Euclid, and as a means of procedure from Euclidean Geometry to the higher descriptive Geometry of Conics and of imaginary points. J. M. C.

*Our Notions of Number and Space.* By Herbert Nichols, Ph. D., assisted by W. E. Parsons, A. B. 201 pages. Price, \$1.00. Ginn & Company, Boston.

This book is an experimental contribution to the "Genetic Theory of Mind." It aims to trace out the origin and development of our present perceptions of number and space from the nature of our past experiences. The experiments were conducted with great care and patience, and the results are worthy of being placed in this permanent and accessible form. The general survey and summary at the end of the book are helpful and valuable. J. M. C.

*Business Forms, Customs, and Accounts.* By Seymour Eaton. Price of Exercise Manual, 50 cents; price of Book of Forms, \$1.00. American Book Company, New York and Chicago.

This manual provides a course of instruction in business which may be used to advantage in schools of all grades where the principles of business are taught. The principles of double entry bookkeeping are taught, but the application of principles to the needs of each particular business are left to be learned in that business. The work is planned to encourage original effort. The exercises are drawn largely from actual transactions. The questions are practical and suggestive. The excellent Book of Forms which accompanies the Exercise Manual will serve to make the teaching of this study both easy and effective. J. M. C.

*Spencerian System of Penmanship:* Common School Course. No. 10, "Connected Business Forms;" No. 11, "Double Entry Bookkeeping." Price, 8 cents each. American Book Company, New York and Chicago.

These books afford the pupil exercise in penmanship, and also familiarize him in a practical manner with ordinary business forms. J. M. C.

*Patriotic Citizenship.* By Thomas J. Morgan, LL. D. Price, \$1.00. 368 pages. American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago. 1895.

The method of this book is a catechism of about 140 questions with as many concise and comprehensive answers by the author. The text of the answers is followed by brief citations from a wide range of authorities chiefly American. Here is found collected much of the finest literature on the selected topics, so arranged as to explain and enforce the text. The book is designed primarily for the public schools following a course in U. S. history, but it is also a good book for the citizen, reading circle, or family. We think the book lacks some of the helps, in the way of outline, contents or index, showing the relation of selected topics to central theme, etc., which would have secured better adaptation from a teaching point of view. The study of this book will give good results in stimulating patriotism and promoting good citizenship.

J. M. C.

*Elementary Lessons in Algebra.* By Stewart B. Sabin and Charles D. Lowry. Price, 50 cents. 128 pages. New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago: American Book Company.

This little book was prepared to meet the demand for a text-book exactly suited to introduce the study of Algebra into Grammar Schools. The development is inductive, and in arrangement, method, problems and exercises, it is well adapted for its purpose.

J. M. C.

*Elements of Plane Geometry.* By John Macnie, A. M., author of "Theory of Equations." Edited by Emerson E. White, A. M., LL. D., author of "White's Series of Mathematics." Price, 75 cents. 240 pages. 1895. New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago: American Book Company.

In this edition the Plane Geometry is bound separately. We reviewed the Plane and Solid Geometry as bound together in our issue of June, 1895, and a further examination gives us no reason to withdraw the favorable comments made on this book in that notice.

J. M. C.

*Inductive Studies in English Grammar.* By William R. Harper, Ph. D., President of the University of Chicago, and Isaac M. Burgess, A. M., Professor in the University of Chicago. Cloth, 12mo, 96 pages. Price, 40 cents. New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago: American Book Company.

This book presents in a brief compass a systematic course in English Grammar, with special reference to its relation and analogy to other languages. The essential facts of the language are briefly and concisely stated, while the terminology and method of presentation are more closely adapted to that used in Latin Grammars. The pupil's knowledge is tested by requiring him to pick out concrete examples of its application from selections of connected English, instead of giving rules with classified groups of examples. The book is scholarly and has many strong points, and is excellently adapted for a review course in English preparatory to the study of the Ancient or Modern Languages. We believe it will meet with a wider use for this purpose and as supplemental to other grammars than as an independent class-book.

J. M. C.

*The Cosmopolitan.* An International Illustrated Monthly Magazine. Edited by John Brisben Walker. Price, \$1.00 per year in advance. Single copies, 10 cents. Irvington-on-the-Hudson, New York.

What is probably the most important discussion of the educational question ever held, has been opened in the April *Cosmopolitan*. President Gilman of the Johns Hopkins

University will follow the introductory article, and the leading educators of the day will contribute articles upon this most important inquiry: "Does Modern Education Educate, in the Broadest and Most Liberal Sense of the Term?" Those interested in the instruction of youth, either as teacher or parent, can not afford to miss this remarkable symposium, intended to review the mistakes of the nineteenth century, and signalize the entrance of the twentieth by advancing the cause of education. President Dwight of Yale, President Schurman of Cornell, Bishop Potter and President Morton are among those who have already agreed to contribute to what promises to be the most significant series of educational papers ever printed. The aim is to consider existing methods in the light of the requirements of the life of to-day, and this work has never been undertaken on a scale in any degree approaching that outlined for *The Cosmopolitan*. Write to us for subscriptions.

B. F. F.

*The Arena*. An Illustrated Monthly Magazine. Edited by John Clarke Redpath and Helen H. Gardner. Price, \$3.00 per year, in advance. Single Number, 25 Cents. Boston: The Arena Co.

The April number of *The Arena* is fully up to the average. In the opening article Governor Pingree, Mayor of Detroit, continues the discussion of Municipal Reform begun in the March number by Mayor Quincy, of Boston. Mayor Pingree, in his breezy paper, affirms that "contracts are the centre and almost the entire circumference of municipal government," and that "almost all the bribes of serious influence in municipalities are given for contracts." His remedy is the letting of contracts by referendum, or direct popular vote.

Under the title of "Lincoln and the Matson Negroes," Jesse W. Weik details the history of a curious slave case, the records of which he has recently unearthed, in which Lincoln was concerned, and which was tried in the circuit court in Illinois, in 1847, during the old fugitive-slave day. None of the numerous biographies of Lincoln makes mention of his part in the affair.

B. F. F.

*The Review of Reviews*. An International Illustrated Monthly Magazine. Edited by Dr. Albert Shaw. Price, \$2.50 per year in advance. Single Number, 25 cents. The Review of Reviews Co., 13 Astor Place, New York City.

In the "Progress of the World" department of the April *Review of Reviews*, the editor comments on the change of administration at Washington, on the tariff bill, and other measures before the extra session of Congress, and on President McKinley's diplomatic appointments; the Greco-Cretan situation is carefully reviewed, and other recent developments in foreign politics are treated with the thoroughness and impartiality to which the *Review's* readers have grown accustomed.

B. F. F.